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Message Text

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44
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-11 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /087 W
---------- 070170
R 271704Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4772
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY ALGIEERS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USCINCEUR
USCINCUSNAVEUR

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SS, SP, MO, AL
SUBJECT: WESTERN SAHARA: SPANISH WITH DRAWAL

REF: MADRID 1405 (241228A FEB 76

1. MFS ISSUED STATEMENT FEB 26 ANNOUNCING THAT GOS ENEDED ITS PRESENCE IN SAHARA AND IN TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATION OF TERRITORY. FUNCTIONING SPANISH GOVERNOR INFORMED THE LOCAL ASSEMPLY (YEMAA) THAT SAME DAY OF GOS DECISION. SPAIN, IT SAYS, CONSIDERS ITSELF FREE OF ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERRITORY. DECOLONIZATION IS NOT COMPLETE UNTIL VIEWS OF SAHARAN POLULATION HAVE BEEN EXPRESS IN VALID MANNER. STATE MENT SAYS THAT GOS POSITION IS BASED ON PERTINENT UNGA RESOLUTION (3458-B) AND THAT GOS HAS INFORMED UNSYG, MOROCCO, AND MAURITANIA.

2. MEDIA REPORT THAT GOS PERM REP AT UN GAVE UNSYG A NOTE FEB 26 DESCRIBING GOS POSITION ON ITS DECISION.
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NOTE REVIEWS SPANISH POSITION ON DECOLONIZATION ON SAHRA

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RECALLING THAT GOS POSTPONED REFERENDUM OF SELF DETERMINATION
AT UNGA REQUEST IN 1974 AND THAT "EXTERIOR FACTORS"
PRESUMABLY THE "GREE MARCH" EXACERBATED THE INSTABILITY
OF THE TERRITORY LEADING TO GOS REQUEST TO SECURITY
COUNCIL TO PRESERVE PEACE IN THE AREA. ON BASIS OF UN
CHARTER, ARTLICE 33, THE INTERESTED PARTIES CONCLUDED THE
TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT OF MADRID NOV 14, 1975, WHICH WAS
SUBSEQUENTLY REGISTERED WITH UN AND PREFERRED TO IN UNGA
RESOLUTION 3458-B.

3. IN APOLOGI FOR GOS DECISION MFA DIRECTOR FOR
NORTH AFRICAN AFFAIRS REMINED EMBASSY THAT SPAIN HAS BEEN
URGED BY UNGA TO DECOLONIZE SAHARA SINCE 1965. MOROCCO,
MAURITANIA, AND ALGERIA ALL AGREED UP UNTIL 1974 THAT
SUCH DECOLONIZATION SHOULD BE ON BASIS OF VALID SAHARAN
EXPRESSION OF SELF DETERMINATION. (DECISIONS REACHED BY
LEADERS OF THESE THREE COUNTRIES AT NOUADHIBOU IN 1970
AND AGADIR IN 1973). EVERYTHING CHANGED WHEN HASSAN II
ANNOUNCED IN AUGUST 1974 THAT MOROCCO WOULD NOT ACCEPT A
REFERNDUM WHICH WOULD LEAD TO SAHARAN INDEPENCE
ACCORDING TO MFA DIRECTOR, GOS COMPLIED WITH UN ALL
ALONG THE LINE; POST PONEMENT OF REFERENDUM, ADVISORY
OPINION REQUESTED BY MOROCCO OF ICJ, COOPERATION WITH
COMMITTEE OF 24 VISITING MISSION IN MAY JUNE, 1975 AND
WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT UNGA RESOLUTIONS BASED ON REPORTS
PREPARED BY ICJ AND MISSION. DESPITE ITS COOPERATIVENESS
UN DELAYED IN ADOPTING PERTINENT RESOLUTION WHICH WAS OVER
TAKEN BY "GREEN MARCH". HAD IT NOT BEE FOR GOS DECISION
FIRST ANTICIPATED IN MAY 24,1975 GOS GOS STATEMENT TO
WITHDRAW PRECIPITATELY IF INTERNAL SAHARAN SITUATION
DETERIORATED, THE "GREEN MARCH" COULD HAVE RESULTED IN
HOSITILITIES. ON BALANCE, MFA BELIEVES THAT ORDERLY
COURSE OF DECOLONIZATION WAS UP SET NOT SO MUCH BY
Q F POLISARIO INSURGENCY AGAINST SPANISH TROOPS AS BY THE
TREATH OF WAR POSES BY THE MASSESS OF CIVILIANS BACKED
BY A MILITARY ORGANIZATION WHICH MARCHED TO THE
SAHARAN BORDER AT THE END OF OCTOBER.

4. GOS OBVIOUSLY WOULD LIKE TO PUT BEST POSSIBLE LIGHT ON
CIRCUMSTANCES OF ITS DECOLONIZATION AND WITHDRAWAL.
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THERE IS AN ELEMENT OF HELPLESSNESS AND FRUSTRATION
IN MFA DESCRIPTION OF EVENTS AS WELL AS CONSIDERABLE
RESENTMENT TOWARDS MOROCCO IN PARTICULAR AND SOME OF
THE ARAB COUNTRIES IN GENERAL. THE SAHARAN EXPERIENCE
ENDS SPAIN'S COLONIAL PRESENCE IN AFRICA.
STABLER

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